

NEWS OF THE DAY.

It is understood that as soon after the reassembling of Congress as possible an effort will be made to induce that body to make a small appropriation for experimenting with road making on the line of the proposed Mt. Vernon Avenue.

The slate from which the Cabinet is to be selected, as made here to-day, contains the names of Messrs. Carlisle, Phelps, Dickinson, Herbert, Collins, M. F. Morrill of this city, Wilson, Blount, Campbell, Gray, Hatch, Culberson and Lamont.

Among the bills which the President has not signed is the one increasing the pension of the survivors of the Mexican war from \$8 to \$12 a month.

Among the arrivals here yesterday were ex-Congressmen Bowden, Col. Lamb and Messrs. Robert and Floyd Hughes of Norfolk.

It is said here that ex-Mayor Grace of New York, the king of the anti-slavery, is Mr. Cleveland's chief agent in his private negotiations with Dr. Johnson at noon to-day.

Blaine's condition was about as follows for the past few days: he looks as if he is getting better, but he is not a candidate for Congress until next New Year's.

Long lobby at work here to secure passage of its bill when it shall be called up in the House Monday week.

The petition of the road into Washington, and is receiving many signatures for that purpose, but the bill is for the admission of the road into Georgetown.

Mr. Cab Maddox, of Virginia, is here again to-day. He says the next Senatorship from his State lies between General Fitz Lee and Mr. Thos. Martin, and with Major Conrad as a compromise candidate.

He says that last Thursday night the safe in the railroad ticket office at Riverton was blown open and its contents, \$9, stolen; that on Thursday Mr. Cone, of Cone's Mill, there having dreamed that his safe had been robbed, took all the money out of it and left its door open, and on Friday morning found the papers that had been in it scattered over the floor; that last night the safe in the railroad office at Front Royal was blown open and its contents, \$2, a false set of teeth and a bundle of underclothing, stolen; that a vain attempt was made to rob the bank there, and that the people of that section are so provoked that they are out in force, searching for the robbers who are supposed to be hiding in the mountains near by.

When Bishop Keane, the rector of the Catholic University, was asked to-day evening the rumor that Father McGillem would be tendered the chair of sacred oratory in the university, he pronounced it as totally without foundation in fact.

Capt. E. E. Potter, in command of the Training Ship Minnesota, has been ordered to command the navy yard at Norfolk, Virginia, vice Commander Weaver, ordered to Washington as president of the retiring board.

No credence is given here to the report that Mr. Cleveland recently, in conversation with some Virginians who had called upon him, spoke of Mr. J. R. Tucker of Virginia as a candidate for Senator Hinton's successorship, for the reason that he has lately been urged by the entire Congressional delegation from Virginia, with one exception, to make Mr. Tucker his Attorney General.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

Fourteen deaths have occurred recently in the Arkansas penitentiary from some unknown epidemic disease.

McLukie, Ross and Diebold were released on bail in Pittsburg, Pa., to-day. The men were taken away from jail very quietly and are now at home.

The two U. S. deputy marshals who were captured last Friday by the Mexican bandits, have escaped and have arrived at a point on the Texas-Mexican railway.

The latest from the San Juan gold fields is to the effect that many rich finds have been made and that trouble has already arisen over conflicting claims. Two men have been killed.

It is said that the organization known as the Industrial League is being extended throughout the South and West for the purpose of resisting, if necessary by force of arms, undue restrictions on elections.

A suspect given the name of William Shroal, alias Charles Brown, is in the Denver, Col., jail under a charge of larceny. Some believe him to be Tascott, the murderer of Snell, the Chicago millionaire, who was assassinated a few years ago.

On the nomination of Colonel McDonald U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, the President has appointed Dr. Tarleton H. Bean, as the representative of the Commission on the Government Board of Management of the Columbian Fair vice Capt. J. W. Collins, resigned.

Mrs. Ewing, a second victim of Jos. Williams, who tried to poison the whole Ewing family in Omaha, Neb., is dying. The funeral of little Albert Ewing was held yesterday. At the postmortem examination it was learned that death resulted from poison. Williams accomplices were the two daughters of Ewing. Williams is still at large.

A strange story of one woman's love for another came to light in New York this morning when Mrs. Etta Harrington, a handsome woman of 32 years, tried to kill herself at her home. She shot herself in the left breast, and is now in the Harlem Hospital dying. Her strange infatuation for Sadie Carson, who is 30 years old, and quite comely, caused Mrs. Harrington to separate from her husband and the two women lived together. Recently they quarrelled and separated, and Mrs. H. being unable to bear the separation any longer to-day shot herself.

Rev. Thomas O'Flaherty, of Rochester, N. Y., who has been under the ban of the church for twenty-four years, it is reported, has had the sentence of excommunication removed by Mr. Satali.

Ex-Governor Henry C. Baldwin, of Michigan, died in Detroit to-day.

THE NEW YORK WORLD SAYS "no matter who may be Speaker of the next U. S. House of Representatives, that body must be organized in such a manner that the strongest men will be its leaders." One of the leaders in the present House is Mr. Breckinridge of Kentucky. He abandoned his resolution demanding all the correspondence in the Chili affair during the first session of the present Congress, though the correspondence referred to was shown that Mr. Harrison, of Chili, in her then crippled condition had been induced by a bill before he sent his new Congress, and he is now working upon the bill.

There are several other so-called leaders in the present House who should be deposed in the next one.

THROUGH THE PANAMA SCANDAL has not yet been half developed. It already shows that at least two and a half million dollars of the money of which the French people were robbed were expended in creating a feeling in this country in favor of the Panama canal. The French government is prosecuting its subjects who were engaged in the swindle. It is hoped the investigation now in progress will disclose the identity of the "prominent American bankers, public men and newspapers" said to be implicated. There need be no fear that any of them will commit suicide if exposed. They are not that kind of men; and then, too, swindlers on a large scale, are by no means as those without hope in this country.

A MUGWUMP newspaper in New York, while conceding that the republicans of Connecticut, sometimes by fraud and sometimes by rank usurpation, have filled all the offices in that State with members of their own party, is not in favor of removing the incumbents now that the democrats have come to their own, and says Governor Morris nor the democratic party will lose anything by being more magnanimous than their opponents. The legitimate effect of political magnanimity was gloriously manifested at the national election in 1888. It will be equally so at the next election in Connecticut if the unwise advice referred to shall be adopted.

It is reported that President Harrison will signalize his extinguishment by a public exhibition of jingoism more glaring than any to which he has heretofore treated the country—nothing less in fact than a proclamation prohibiting Canadian railroads from transporting merchandise in bond, free of duty, through U. S. territory. Why he should want to make the people of Canada, who import five times more from this country than all Central and South America put together do, hate the United States, and withdraw their trade from them, is what Mr. Harrison may possibly be able to tell, but certainly no body else can.

THE NEW YEAR will begin to-morrow. What the old one has done for us is known and is a tale that is told. What the new one has in store is an unopened book. But regrets for mistakes and adversity in the old, are no less vain than hopes for precision and success in the new. The wise will therefore pursue the even tenor of their way, with "a sigh for those who love them, and a smile for those who hate, b'f whatever sky's above them, with beliefs for any fate."

THE GOVERNOR of Georgia has vetoed a bill passed by the legislature of that State for increasing and elevating the studies of the public schools thereof. The Governor is right. If the elements of an education be given all the children at the expense of the State, it is as much as any reasonable man has a right to ask. Children who have the desire and ability to achieve a high education will do so if possessed of the elements referred to.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.

The plan of placing army officers, instead of civilians, in charge of Indian agencies is satisfactory to the Indians, but is quite the contrary with some of the officers who have been assigned to that duty. That it is so, is proved by the fact that some of those recently assigned to such duty are doing all they can to secure a revocation of the orders.

All the Executive Departments closed to-day at 12 noon. They will not be open again for business until Tuesday morning, January 3rd, 1893.

Senator Voorhees says Mr. Gray, of his State, will certainly be a member of the next Cabinet. The Senator has no doubt that the body of which he is a member will be reorganized upon a democratic basis, and that he will be chairman of its finance committee.

ALEXANDRIA DURING 1892.

In taking formal leave of the old year the GAZETTE, as a resume of the occurrences of the past year, presents to its readers a summary of the progress of the city during the past year.

Alexandria during the year 1892, it will be generally admitted, was the greatest stride towards becoming a city of the importance which her location and natural advantages entitle her to hold.

The most important event of the year was the construction of the electric railway through the streets of the city and on to Mt. Vernon. This railroad has brought thousands of strangers to the city and has made Alexandria a place of much more importance in the tourist's guide books than she ever was before.

The importance of this is manifest. The road, too, runs through a most beautiful country which will soon be thickly settled and Alexandria is its natural market. Then there is a strong probability that the road will be extended still farther into lower Fairfax which will bring the people of that section into still closer communication with Alexandria. That the road will soon be extended northward and then on to Washington there can be but little doubt, and with an electric railway connection between the two cities the advantages resulting to Alexandria could hardly be overestimated, for then thousands of persons whose business is in the capital city would make their homes here where rents and living are so much cheaper.

Already the necessity of building an electric railway from this city to Washington is apparent, and that it will be accomplished in a very short time is admitted by every one.

The extension of the city's limits has continued with increasing strides and must continue to increase, for so completely have the old sections of the city become built upon that suitable building lots are now only to be obtained in what a short time since were considered the suburbs. Streets are being opened and both the gas and water mains are being extended to meet the demands of those who have erected houses on the outskirts of the city. The buildings erected during the year in number, size and magnificence compare most favorably with those of any previous year in the city's history, and the amount of money thus expended shows that many persons realize that money so spent in Alexandria is a good investment. Attention has frequently been called, through the GAZETTE, to the demand for conveniently arranged, medium-sized residences, and the increasing number of building permits issued by the Auditor shows that attempts are being made to meet this demand.

The year has been a headful and steady, without any attempt at "booming," but has been no excitement and no rapid and fictitious increase in values, but, far better, there has been a healthy activity in property. Values have steadily advanced and the prospects are that they will steadily climb the scale.

A number of outside people have invested in property that will surely bring them good profits in the near future. Many manufacturers have been brought to investigate the situation, and by an interchange of views the plans have been laid for the establishment of new enterprises to be conducted by men who have practical knowledge of the business to be undertaken. A wood vulcanizing works and an ice manufacturing plant are to be established here at an early date.

In a similar article to this, published at the close of last year, it was stated that a prominent merchant had said "the business of Alexandria is growing and only wants feeding." The "feeding" during the year has been administered to a certain extent with gratifying results, and from a mercantile standpoint the city has made considerable progress. This is the opinion of merchants in nearly every branch of business with whom the reporters of the GAZETTE have conversed.

The grocery and provision trade of the city, which has grown so wonderfully during the past few years, and which has brought Alexandria into such prominence as a supply market, continues to grow through the exertions of the wholesale merchants, who are determined to be outdone by no competitors and who are yearly extending their territory. The retail dealers, too, keep up with the times and carry stocks of goods that would do credit to much larger cities.

The lumber trade shows phenomenal growth, and the merchants engaged in this business are leaving no stone unturned to extend the territory in which they sell. They are not content with furnishing lumber and other material for the many buildings constantly being erected in the city and immediate vicinity, but now are successful competitors with dealers in other cities for supplying such material at points a hundred miles distant.

The trade in fertilizers has grown to such an extent that mammoth buildings have recently been erected for their manufacture and storage, and these buildings are fitted with the most approved appliances. The plaster trade also continues good and the dealers get their supplies direct from the mines in Nova Scotia, some of which are owned by Alexandrians.

The manufacture of shoes at the Potomac Shoe Factory has been largely increased during the year and the excellent quality of the goods turned out has won for them a deservedly high reputation in every market in which they are sold.

The need of strictly wholesale dry-goods, boots and shoes and notions houses here has frequently been alluded to, and there is no reason why such houses should not be as successful in Alexandria as the wholesale grocery and provision establishments.

The wholesale business in drugs, chemicals, oils and paints shows a gratifying increase during the year, and this city now supplies such articles at points heretofore covered by merchants of other cities. The retail druggists also report a gratifying increase in their business during the year.

The trade in China glass and crockery, hardware and building material, bricks, coal, plaster, salt and ice, agricultural implements, seed, &c., furniture, &c., has increased to a considerable extent, and all those so engaged conduct their business on a larger scale than heretofore and carry much larger stocks.

The above is also true of the trade in dry goods, carpets, notions, clothing, boots, shoes, &c. The increasing population of the city necessarily increases the sale of these articles, and then, too, the merchants have for their customers the people of the contiguous counties who naturally come to Alexandria to make such purchases.

Few years in the history of the city have seen the mechanics and laborers kept so constantly at work and such men had little or no trouble in securing employment.

The manufacturers of the city have also done well during the year and many of them have enlarged their establishments and increased their facilities. This is true of the brewery, the tannery, the cigar manufacturers, the cracker, cake and candy manufactory, the bakery, the soap-stone mill, the foundries, the machine shops, &c., &c.

Another evidence of the prosperous growth of the city is the increasing business of the banks. These institutions are all on a solid basis, are conducted on strictly business principles and in a manner to inspire confidence among their depositors and reflect credit on the city.

The constantly increasing railroad traffic both freight and passenger and the rivalry between the competing lines for the city's trade show the growing importance of the city and how it is regarded by the railroad companies.

The city needs and should have better railroad passenger depots, for their buildings now used for such purposes here are inferior to those in villages of a hundred inhabitants.

The advantages of Alexandria have frequently been alluded to and they are attracting general attention. We are at the terminus virtually of five trunk lines of railroads with water communication to all parts of the country; are near to the national capital, where everybody comes; machinery and capital of manufacturing enterprises are exempt from taxation; improved property suitable for manufacturing purposes can be had at one-half of what it costs to place the improvements on it, and labor is abundant here. Alexandria is in every way attractive as a place of residence. It is the best paved city in Virginia; the health of the place is most excellent; churches are numerous and the schools, both public and private, are excellent. Our water is celebrated for its purity. Houses can be purchased for less than the price asked for vacant ground in the suburbs of many more pretentious places where none of the advantages or appointments of a city are yet to be found. We have upwards of thirty local trains a day, furnishing quick and comfortable communication with the capital, and at low fare, while the ferry boats run between the city and Washington with the regularity of clock work.

There are 2,247 water renters in the city, an increase of 140 over last year. According to the report of the Superintendent, the Alexandria Water Company laid 3,000 feet of new mains during the year ending November 1st. Since that time 2,700 feet have been laid, making a total of 5,700 as against 2,512 last year. Of the last 2,700 feet, 450 were laid on Queen street, between Patrick and Henry; 450 on Princess, between Royal and Fairfax; 900 on Royal, between Duke and Wilkes; 450 on Wolfe, between Pitt and Royal; 450 on Patrick, between Gibbon and Wilkes. During the year fire plugs have been placed at the corners of Gibbon and Patrick streets, Henry and Wilkes, Princess and West, Queen and Fayette, Queen and Henry, and Wolfe and Royal.

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund have purchased during the year \$8,800 of Corporation bonds—\$8,400 of the issue of 1879 and \$400 of the issue of 1872.

During the year 748 dog licenses were issued; in 1891, 811. How many were unlicensed is a question.

The chain gang expenses, that is for board, clothing, &c., in 1891 was \$614.55; this year, \$1,029.

One well constructed brick sewer was built, connecting the 1st and 4th wards, during the year; another is nearing completion in the 2nd ward, and despite adverse criticism, the engineer and contractor say it will stand the test of both time and critics.

The number of prisoners sent to jail during the year 1892 was 827, of which 244 were colored, and 583 white. Of this number there were ten females—9 colored and 1 white.

During the year there have been issued permits to build 127 houses, some large and others small—33 frame houses at an estimated cost of \$58,825, and 34 brick houses at an estimated cost of \$58,375. Total, \$117,200. The highest estimated figures for a frame house was \$2,000, the lowest \$125; for a brick house \$5,000, the highest, and \$250 the lowest. The increase in buildings as compared with 1891 was 7 brick and 19 frame houses and the increase in values was \$8,000. In some cases, the contract prices of buildings were given in others, and a majority of cases, the estimate was much below the actual cost. One hundred and sixty thousand dollars is a low figure to place the improvements during the year.

The collections of internal revenue for the year were—cigar stamps \$5,000; beer stamps, \$60,000; special tax stamps, \$3,636.40 and on whisky and brandy, \$80,000.

The lumber merchants report that fully 15,000,000 feet of lumber were sold in this city during the year, which is an increase of fully 3,000,000 feet over the sales of last year.

The grocery and provision merchants say that notwithstanding the fact that trade was dull during the first part of the year owing to the wet season, yet for the past six months the business has considerably increased, and that the trade for the year will amount to about \$3,500,000.

During the year the Clerk of the City School Board issued 2073 permits to children to attend the public schools—674 to white boys, 540 to white girls, 454 to colored boys and 405 to colored girls. Last year 2089 permits were issued and the falling off is in colored pupils.

Messrs. G. R. Hill & Co.'s steam cracker, cake and candy manufactory has been enlarged during the year and its capacity increased to supply the growing demand for the excellent goods turned out there.

The Potomac Shoe Factory has done well during the year and the company is now making arrangements for increasing its capacity.

An industry which has sprung up during the year is the Alexandria Steam Bakery, which has a large and growing trade and which has completely driven out of the city the Washington dealers who formerly sold bread and pies here.

The business of the Porter Brewing Company has increased so rapidly that

the capacity of the brewery in this city, now one of the finest and most complete in the country, is to be increased three-fold.

The value of imports entered at the port during the year was \$6,183 as against \$17,332.30 last year; number of vessels built in the district of Alexandria 5 as against 9 last year; total tonnage of the port 105 vessels as against 101 last year, and 4,856.03 gross tonnage as against 5,455.28 last year.

There are 894 private gas consumers, against 871 last year. During the year 965 feet of new mains were laid, 1210 feet renewed, and 990 feet of old mains lowered; 41 new services were put in new buildings, 16 old ones renewed, and 1 lamp post erected. There are now 12 electric arc lights in operation. The cost of operating the electric light last year—that is for labor, material and repairs—was \$5,771.81. This year \$5,450.

The Corporation Court there were 26 sworn law suits instituted, 21 chancery suits, 29 administrations granted, 15 wills admitted to probate and 59 charters granted. In the Circuit Court for the city there were 4 common law and 12 chancery suits entered, 3 wills admitted to probate and 1 charter granted.

The total fire insurance paid for losses within the city limits for the year was \$1,208.22, as against \$23,371.91 last year. Of this amount \$2,000 was paid for losses at the fire at the wire pillow manufactory which occurred during the previous year.

During the year the police made 1743 arrests, as against 1672 last year. The police "took up" 43 cows, 9 horses, 65 geese and 4 geese. The number of lodgers at the station house was 964. The total amount of flour inspected during the year was 31,265, as against 31,450 last year.

The fourteen building associations in the city during the year loaned about \$235,000, or about \$35,000 more than last year. A large sum was also loaned by the various loan associations.

The number of marriage licenses issued by the Clerk of the Corporation Court during the year was 120—76 to white and 44 to colored persons. Last year 107 were issued.

The number of deeds recorded by the Clerk of the Corporation Court during the year was 708. Last year there were 709.

There has been paid into the City Treasury by Mayor Strauss from licenses collected since the beginning of the fiscal year, Jan. 1, 1892, to this date, Dec. 31, 1892, \$5,544.24. This is high-water mark of licenses collected.

From Jan. 1, 1892, to Jan. 1, 1893, \$56,335; from Jan. 1, 1893, to Jan. 1, 1894, \$52,008.40—total \$1,044,755; a monthly average of \$288.75. This is larger than last year, which was then the highest—\$252.40 per month. During this year 567 burial permits were issued, of which 131 were for interments of the remains of persons who died outside of the city, and of this number 66 died in the District of Columbia, 451 died in the Corporation limits and 15 at the Alma House. Of these 466 there were white males 155, females 115; colored, 97 males; 99 females. The average monthly deaths in the city were 38, the greatest number in one month being in July when 69 deaths occurred, of which 22 were from cholera infantum and enteric colitis. The bodies of 25 persons were carried out of the city for interment. Last year 462 burial permits were issued.

Last, but by no means the least, the GAZETTE during the year donned a new and handsome dress and increased its circulation. Its columns are daily filled with the latest news received by telegraph from all parts of the world; the paper is read by nearly everybody in the community and this section of the State, thus making it the best advertising medium in Northern Virginia.

BUILDING IN ALEXANDRIA.

The steady increase in building in Alexandria, as has from time to time been commented on in the GAZETTE, is remarkable, when compared with the lethargy exhibited but a few years ago.

Now people build houses here and in Washington and other places to sell and speculate on. What has been predicted even by some enthusiasts is being fulfilled, in many cases beyond the most sanguine expectations. 'Tis true, most of the houses are of moderate dimensions, but they are stylish and fitted with modern conveniences, are attractive and in many cases have been erected by people who own and occupy them—all of which are the best indications of the industry and thrift of a community. One hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars were expended this year in the erection of new houses, and during the coming year the prospects for a large increase over this amount are good. The additions to the Porter Brewery alone will cost in the neighborhood of \$35,000, and numbers of what are vacant lots will by this time in the year of 1893 be fitted with comfortable and in many cases costly buildings. The suburbs of Alexandria are by no means what they were last year. What were then barren squares with rail fences in the north, northeast and northwest are dotted here and there with cozy residences, and it is safe to predict that the coming year will witness changes upon the face not only of those localities but of every other section of the city. That houses will eventually be built upon both sides of the electric railway track to the banks of Hunting creek is no wild prophecy when facts are considered. Lots, compared with those in other localities, are cheap in that section and are sure to attract builders, and if other localities far less inviting a few years ago are now compactly built up, certainly a section enjoying street car facilities will assert itself soon. The inducements set forth to people from other places to take up their abode here have caused many to avail themselves of them, and to-day more strangers are to be seen in Alexandria than at any time since the influx incident to war times. The building of an electric railway from this city to Washington so often talked about is sure to crystallize into a fact; it is a demand of the times, and when that shall have been accomplished (and who can say how long it will be deferred?) Alexandria will take a spurt which will be marvelous to the enthusiastic as well as to the conservative. The Auditor this year issued 127 permits for the erection of buildings, and with the steady increase of our population this number is bound to be greatly exceeded during next year. We all feel that our old city has taken on new life, and we are overjoyed to see it. We have waited long and patiently for the turn in the tide, been held in derision by those of other places and humbugged and deceived by those who made stupendous promises and fulfilled none. But the tide has turned; we can mark its influx; we can see it gradually covering this and that place

so long barren and unprofitable, eventually all unseemly gaps have been covered with bricks and mortar, while the city proper will be encroaching far and wide into Fairfax and Alexandria counties.

DEATHS DURING THE YEAR.

As will be seen from the following list, there has been the average number of deaths in Alexandria during the year just closing. As has often been stated, there is an average of about one death a day in this city. The list appended embraces only the names of white adults. With children and colored people who have died the string of names would be as long again.

At her home, "Spring Grove," Loudoun County, December 30th, Mrs. LOUIS DEJARNETTE, wife of the late Hon. C. DeJarnette, in her 69th year.

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